trafficking in human beings or beggar as referred to in Article 23 of the Constitution, a woman, child, a mentally ill or otherwise disabled person, and industrial workman, etc. are entitled to free legal aid and assistance. As regards other categories of persons, initially every person whose annual income was not exceeding Rs. 9,000/- had been eligible for free legal aid in cases coming before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto. At the fourth annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the NALSA on 29th February, 2004 and 1st March, 2004 at Kolkata, it was resolved to raise the income ceiling in terms of section 12(h) of the said Act, from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- per annum in respect of cases before High Courts and Courts subordinate thereto. In cases before the Supreme Court, the limit was fixed at Rs. 12,000/- earlier and now the income ceiling has been raised by the Central Govenrment to Rs. 50,000/-

(d) During the last three years, more than 6.32 lakh persons have benefited through Legal Aid & Advice throughout the country and about 1.68.360 Lok Adalats have been held in which more than 44,32,400 cases have been settled.

(e) To create awareness among the people for availing free legal aid, the NALSA plans to hold more and more legal wareness camps in different parts of the country.

Mediation Cells at Tees Hazari Court

2015. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ford Foundation have financed creation of Mediation Cell at Tees Hazari Court to dispose of civil disputes and petty criminal cases with mutual consent of the parties concerned; and

(b) if so, whether Delhi Bar Association has opposed creation of such a Cell that due to this being funded by Ford Foundation and American nationals having been engaged to train Judges to run the Cell?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) As per information received from the National Legal Services Authority the establishment expenses of the Mediation Cell at Tees Hazari Courts, are being borne by the Office of the District and Sessions Judge, Delhi. The incidental expenses such as printing of pamphlets etc. are being borne by the National Legal Services

Authority. The Institute for Study and Development of Legal Systems (ISDLS) imparted training to the Judicial officers of Delhi free of cost. No representation or opposition from the Delhi Bar Association to the creation of the Cell on any ground has been received by the National Legal Services Authority.

Capital Disinvestment In NALCO

†2016. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) by when the proposal of capital disinvestment from National Aluminium Company NALCO situated in Orissa, which has been put on hold for the time being, will be completely cancelled or returned back;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal of Government to include 'NALCO' in 'Navratna'; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) On 6th July 2006, the Government decided to keep all disinvestment decisions and proposals on hold, pending further review, which is yet to be completed.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Mines has sent a proposal to department of Public Enterprises to consider grant of 'Navratna' status to National Aluminium Company Limited.

Policy On Extraction Of Sand From Sea Coasts

2017. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a policy regarding extraction of sand from sea coasts in the country;

(b) whether any State Government has enacted a policy in the matter; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to stop the erosion of sea

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.